

THE PRESIDENT BETTER.

FAVORABLE SYMPTOMS AT MIDNIGHT.
A MARKED CHANGE FOR THE BETTER—LESS ALARM
IN REGARD TO BLOOD-POISONING—PUBLIC
ANXIETY UNABATED.

The President's symptoms yesterday were much the same as on the previous day. At midnight he had improved, and there was believed to be some ground for hope. His mind was clear, and for the first time in several days he partook of solid food. The nervous effects of the system caused by the shocks of blood-poisoning not as great as on Friday, was the final report of Dr. Bliss. Postmaster-General James left Washington last night for this city. It is understood that he comes here to confer with Vice-President Arthur. The public anxiety in this city was unabated.

SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT.
THE PRESIDENT BETTER TOWARDS MIDNIGHT—HE
PARTAKES OF SOLID FOOD—HIS MIND CLEAR—
THE BLOOD POISONING ABATING.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—The history of to-day may be very briefly told. "Papa is better; mama just came from the sick room," said "Jimmy" Garfield to Captain Henry, as the latter stepped from the western train this evening. "There are possibilities. If he lives without a change for the worse for twenty-four hours more, there will be probabilities," said one of the President's physicians late this evening. The symptoms in all their general features are similar to those of yesterday. Gloom and despondency prevailed in the morning, but gleams of hope were the characteristics of the evening. At 4 o'clock this morning a change for the worse was reported. The gland "angry" and indurated remained unchanged and was the chief source of anxiety. The pulse exhibited phenomena to which it had hitherto been a stranger, rising and falling more rapidly and displaying less "character" than usual. The fever symptoms were all increasing and the patient was noticeably growing feebler. The morning bulletin added to the prevailing despondency by confirming the rumors which had preceded it. Stories of new and alarming developments gained currency, but proved to be without foundation. There were no new developments and no salient features in the treatment or the symptoms of the day. Dr. Bliss said during the forenoon, in reply to an inquiry, that in his opinion the President would not recover.

The first evidence of a change came from General Swain shortly after noon. The President after asking for and receiving food said to the General, "I feel better than I did yesterday at this time. I enjoy my food and can taste it." From that time until the evening bulletin came out the condition appeared to have been one of almost imperceptible improvement. The intellect which had been slightly clouded at intervals for three or four days, remained perfectly clear during the entire day. Late in the afternoon the President asked for some milk and toast and it was given him. He ate it with relish and without succeeding discomfort. This was the first solid food given him for many days.

The wound has not been displaying its customary favorable symptoms, although its indications are not sufficiently bad to create alarm in themselves. In fact, they are good as far as they go, but are only less favorable than they have been. Granulation has been less rapid and less satisfactory in character, and the pus secretion is not as full as they have been for a few days past. The glandular inflammation continues to be the chief source of anxiety. The fever resulting from it doubtless gives rise to the changed character of the wound.

THE GROUNDS OF HOPE.
The occasion for the revived hopes of this evening is found in the excellent behavior of the stomach and the clearness of the President's mind to-day. Every opinion entitled to respect is to the effect that the outlook at midnight is favorable, "but," it is added, "all may be changed in the morning. There is reason to fear that the change has come too late."

A distinguished man in a position to know many of the details of the President's condition said that he understood that the conduct of the wound had changed this morning. The wound was flabby. Granulation seemed almost to have stopped. The glands were small and not healthy. This was, of course an alarming sign, indicating a radical change in the conditions of the system. The gentleman believed that if the time came when the President's physicians should have to perform the office of a post mortem, the wound would be found to be of a remarkable character. It would have been far better for the President if the bullet had struck one of the fixed ribs, than it would probably have crushed through the ribs, gone through the body and out. But striking the lower rib the yielding broke its force, the ball was deflected and as he believed it would be found, was flattened and then went whirling round and round into the body. Dr. Boynton came out of the White House at about half-past 10 to-night, and was instantly surrounded by the correspondents as usual.

"How do you think the President is now?" the Tribune correspondent asked.

"I think," he replied, that he is just as well as he was yesterday. I don't think there has been any letting down since yesterday. He has retained the milk toast given him and liked it."

"How is his pulse now?"

"About 114."

"Has it fluctuated since 6 o'clock?"

"No, it has not fluctuated much during the afternoon and evening."

"You feel, then, that there is a tangible ground for encouragement?"

"Yes. It may all be dissipated in the morning, but it may be greater; we cannot tell. He is sleeping quietly now."

Dr. Boynton said also that all the organs were performing their usual functions. Last night the stomach did not seem to be assimilating food, but to-night it was doing well. If the President pulled through Sunday without any change for the worse, he should begin to feel there was ground again for hope. Dr. Boynton made one other important statement that the discharge of pus from the gland was free, giving more relief. The discharge from the incision is very slight.

MRS. EDSON'S OPINION.
Mrs. Dr. Edson said to-night that her slender hopes of yesterday were a little strengthened to-night. The President had passed a comparatively comfortable day, his stomach being in really good condition and his mind clearer than it had been for more than a week. He had showed no apprehension, but on the contrary said he felt a trifle better. He could move about and could draw up his limbs, though, of course, said Mrs. Edson, we do not allow them to remain unsupported long. The nonrising enemata would sustain the President some time.

"How long do you think he can hold out?" she was asked. "I cannot answer that question," she said. "Changes we do not apprehend may arise, but I repeated it to-day to the President to be brave and hold out one week, and all would be well. I do not feel confident about him, but I do feel that the case is not entirely hopeless. I think there is more hope than there has been for two days. He knows his condition, and often asks whether he is losing or gaining ground. Mrs. Garfield has been with him most of the day, and is cheerful again. Last night she was more anxious than at any time heretofore. The children have not seen their father for a week."

room. He said that from the second day after the shooting he felt confident the President would recover, and he believed he should yet help the patient to get up and, maybe, accompany him to Mentor. One of the attendants who bathes the President says the patient moves his limbs about quite freely, and to-day took a tumbler of water and lifted it quite firmly to his lips. The attendant said he seen much weaker patients than this one.

DR. BLISS MORE SANGUINE.
At a few minutes before 11 o'clock, Dr. Bliss came out of the sick-room with an almost radiant face. He said: "I have just been bathing the President with whiskey. I do this every little while."

"How is your patient, doctor, at this hour?" was asked.

"Better than at the time of the evening bulletin," was the cheering reply. "His pulse is about 110, his respiration 18, and his temperature about the same. There is no significance, however, in the increased frequency of the respiration. It ought, in fact, to be so. This rate (18) is his sleeping rate. When he wakes again it will doubtless be higher."

"What is the condition of the parotid swelling?"

"There is not much change in it. It is not quite so dense as it was, and not so deeply discolored as it was. The discharge, too, is a little more generous than it was yesterday."

"Are there any indications of sloughing?"

"None whatever. I do not think it will slough."

"Are there any further openings?"

"No, and no probability of any that I can discover. If there were any symptoms of a new pus cavity we should at once make an incision."

"How is the wound itself?"

"That is not repairing. It is no better than yesterday. This is due to inaction. In a day or two it will granulate again, if the President's condition of gain keeps up. The wound does not trouble us any, however. There is no anxiety at all regarding that feature of the case."

"Are there any signs of swellings elsewhere?"

"No. The skin is in a good condition; it is repairing. What I mean by that is that it is now in such a condition that a slight abrasion will not result in a blister, but would heal of itself in the normal way. This is also a gain."

"In what condition do you find the bowels?"

"They have moved once to-day; the excreta are normal, as is also the urine."

"Does not the President perspire very much?"

"We are guarding against that. Whenever we note a tendency to sweating, we immediately bathe the surface with whiskey. This not only checks the sweating, but cools and strengthens the patient and is pleasant and soothing to him. The object of this, of course, is to conserve his fluids."

"What has been his mental condition to-day?"

"His mind is perfectly clear. He manifests no interest in what is going on, as an illustration, a little while ago while I was bathing him, Mrs. Garfield came to his bedside. The President said: 'I wish you would go to bed.'"

"Was his request to-night for food dictated by his appetite, do you think?"

"Oh, yes, entirely. It is the first time in many days, perhaps two weeks, that he has eaten any solid food. We do not regard this as important, however, still it is a very favorable indication. It was no experiment of the Doctors, but a spontaneous craving for food on his part."

"Do you still give whiskey enemata?"

"Yes, we consider it necessary to continue these injections every four hours. They are our one main reliance, next to the stomach itself."

"Has there been a marked improvement to-day, Doctor?"

"Since noon there has been, I can say, a slight improvement, but it has been continuous; that is the most reassuring feature of it. To put the case a little more accurately, I can say that the nervous shocks to the system caused by the effects of blood poisoning, are not as great as they were yesterday. These shocks are like the strokes of a hammer, said the Doctor, pounding gently on the table by way of illustration."

"What do you regard as the first indication of the improvement?"

"The clearing away of the mind is undoubtedly the first indication. This shows that he is recovering from encephalitis of the brain. The blood-poisoning or septicemia," said the Doctor, smiling at the term, which has caused so much trouble to correspondents and telegraphers. "The blood-poisoning is abating, and is noticeably less than for three days past. There is better circulation of the blood. The pulse is less frequent and firmer. His sleep is healthful and easy. If by to-morrow this present condition continues, we shall see an improvement in the granulations along the track of the wound."

"Does the President think he will get well?"

"I believe he does think so. His wife came into the room this morning and said to him, 'My dear you are going to get well.' The President looked at her very sharply, and asked if she really meant it. I found it necessary to add my own opinion, which seemed to have an effect, and since then he has really seemed brighter."

RESIGNED BUT WITHOUT HOPE.
THE PRESIDENT AWARE OF HIS CONDITION AND
PREPARED FOR DEATH OR LIFE—WEAKLY WITH
STRUGGLE.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—It is considered probable by the surgeons that the President's death will be preceded by a period, extending perhaps over a dozen hours, during which he will be in a comatose condition. Weeks ago he thought aloud:

"As dreams are made of, and our little life is rounded with a sleep."

And his thought is to be, it seems, sustained by his own experiences. Gradually disengaging itself from the wrecked body his spirit will pass away silently and gradually, so that those who watch by his bedside will scarcely be conscious of his flight.

There may be, the surgeons think, a returning gleam of consciousness just before the end. It is gratifying to know that the President is aware to-night, while still in the possession of his mental faculties, of his condition. He knows that he is recorded by his surgeons as standing on the brink of the grave, and he is ready for the last great change if it comes.

Let it be understood that he is still hopeful. He is more hopeful than his surgeons. He believes that he still has a chance; but he is prepared, should that chance fade away, for death. Said Dr. Boynton this morning: "Yes, he knows where he stands. He knows how desperate is the strait in which he is. He said to me just now: 'Am I growing weaker?' I answered frankly, 'Yes, I don't think you are as strong as you were yesterday.' He understood what that meant, and after a pause, he half sighed and said in a low voice: 'I wonder what is worth while to struggle on?' 'Certainly it is,' I said, heartily, and he seemed encouraged by my tone, although, I could not put much encouragement in words."

"And Mrs. Garfield knows?"

"Oh yes. There was really very little for me to break to her. She has watched the case since the first day, nothing has been concealed from her, and she knew—she must have known—as soon as we that the beginning of the end had come. She has borne it bravely, quietly, with Christian resignation. She is still hopeful and will be to the end. She is prepared for life or for death."

A CITY BOWED WITH SORROW.
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND CITIZENS WATCHING
THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRESS FROM HOUR TO
HOUR—WHY HE WAS REVERED TO THE PEOPLE—A UNITED CABINET.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—It is not an exaggeration to say that the business of the Departments is almost suspended. In the gloom and

uncertainty overhauling the city, there is little disposition to do any official business but that which is absolutely necessary. There are duties which must, of course, be performed, no matter how great the strain of popular anxiety is; but the eagerness of officials and clerks of all grades to hear the latest news from the White House, and to discuss its bearing upon the President's slender chances for life, is such that all but the essentials of work are apt to be pushed aside. In almost every office in the different Departments, groups of men may be seen talking earnestly together and questioning every newcomer for the latest news. The Secretaries are absent much of the time, being called frequently to the White House by their anxiety to learn whether there has been any improvement in the President's condition; and thus the Departments have more than the usual appearance of inaction, dulness, and inactivity.

A high Government official, speaking to-day of the extent of feeling manifested here over the President's suffering and danger, said it was something entirely exceptional in the history of such events. It was very different from the feeling to be expected from officials when the chief personage of the Government was lying at death's door. In him all would have a general and genuine interest. But with General Garfield the case was different. He had been living in Washington for twenty years, and was personally known to many men in almost every Department. He had been a poor man, and had lived in boarding-houses. Many of them had boarded in the same house with him. They knew him now, not only as the suffering President, but as an old friend, who had won not only their affection but their admiration by the brilliant success of his career. In this way the attack on General Garfield came home to a large number of the Government employees as a personal affliction; and it was not strange, as hope grew less, that such a gloom should settle down upon the city. Another thing had served to intensify these feelings. People had found, in the three months of his active Presidency, that he was probably the most gentle, the most amiable, and the most accessible of all our Presidents, except Lincoln—the other murdered man," the speaker added in a sad voice.

In this way the suffering of the President has brought a common sorrow to the people of Washington, such as it has brought to no other city, and the proof of it can be seen in the grave faces to be met at almost every turn of the street, and the anxious looks of those who wait in the White House and about the gates for news. Yet the casual visitor to Washington, knowing how intense the excitement is throughout the country with respect to the President, would probably be surprised to find how lifeless and listless Washington seems to be. But it is vacation time, and Washington, like most other American capitals, loses its life with its Legislature, Congress and the Supreme Court are not in session, and many Department officials are also out of town. Except for the groups of newspaper correspondents on the steps of the White House and the patient crowd at the gates there are no signs of excitement about the Executive Mansion. But the stream of callers among those who have passes to the White House itself runs steadily through the gate all day long. Official bulletins are posted up all over the city within a few minutes after they have been issued, and the newsboys cry extras through every street until late at night.

A gentleman in high office said to-day that one of the most interesting features of this general sympathy was the way in which the Cabinet had been brought together. "Probably no Cabinet," he said, "has ever been drawn so closely into personal relations as this one. Every night a little knot of cardinals stands in front of the White House portico. They are the cabinet members of the Cabinet, who have come with their wives to spend the evening and to try by their talk to help Mrs. Garfield in keeping up a cheerful spirit. They stay until ten or half-past ten o'clock, chatting on various subjects—not always on that of the President's suffering—and try bravely to cheer her up. When they come out from the White House, every member of the Cabinet is at once surrounded by half a dozen or more correspondents who ask eagerly their latest impressions of the case. They get into their carriages and drive away. The correspondents disappear, and the White House is closed for the night, while the crowd at the gate still stands and waits until the gates are shut in their faces. These daily and nightly meetings have brought the Cabinet into a degree of familiar association which makes them almost like one family; and the death of the President, if it finally comes, will come to them like a loss in their own circle."

A story was told to-day which illustrates General Garfield's singular amiability, which has no doubt cost him something of the strength which would be of vast service to him to-day; for the popular impression that he was in the most vigorous health at the time he was shot does not seem to be correct. Much of his nervous force had been used up under the hurrahs of office-seekers. The story is that Attorney-General MacVeagh entered the President's room one day, and found it crowded with applicants and friends of applicants, who were in turn pouring their stories into the President's ear. He was listening to them, one after another, with great courtesy, trying to avoid saying disagreeable things, and yet avoid saying anything he could not or would not fulfill. Attorney-General MacVeagh noticed that he began to put his hand up to the back of his head and held it there several minutes at a time. Suddenly the Attorney-General, whose manner is always incisive, said in a distinct voice: "I have an important communication to make to the President, and must ask the gentlemen present to retire." But the average American citizen, especially when he is after an office, does not take even that kind of a hint; it was the President's room and not the Attorney-General's, and they showed little disposition at first to go. Finally, however, the room was cleared, and the President turned to the Attorney-General and said: "Well, what is the communication you have to make?"

"Mr. President," said he, "the communication I have to make is that I think you ought to go to bed. You are evidently worn out, and you are letting these men kill you." The President laughed, and took the Attorney-General's advice, and several times afterward, in talking with friends, he referred to the incident with amusement.

GROUND FOR RENEWED HOPE.
THE UNFAVORABLE SYMPTOMS DUE NOW TO EXHAUSTION—GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT THROUGHOUT THE DAY—SOLID FOOD PARTAKEN, THE FIRST TIME IN TWO WEEKS.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—In the earlier stages of the President's case, while his vitality was still strong, and while the changes in his condition from better to worse and from worse to better corresponded with the ebb and flow of the surgical fever, it was noticeable that the low tide of physical condition came in the evening, and the high tide of improvement in the early morning. The febrile rise was then the most prominent feature of the case, and as this periodical increase of fever was largely due to, and caused by, the disturbances, the excitement, heat and the surgical manipulations of the day it reached its culmination in the evening. During the night the mental faculties of all existing and disturbing influences, and the rest and refreshment of sleep caused a gradual improvement in the patient's symptoms, and his condition touched its most favorable point in early morning.

Since, however, the manifestations of fever became secondary in importance to the manifestations of exhaustion, the high and low tides of condition, if they may be so called, have, so far as time is concerned, been exactly reversed. The patient now seems to have his worst hours in the early morning, and his best hours in the afternoon and evening. His system sinks during the night, and rallies in the early part of the day. This flagging of all the Presi-

dent's vital energies in the morning was especially noticeable to-day. Between 4 o'clock and 7 o'clock a.m. his pulse was high and feeble; his mental condition rather despondent, and all his symptoms discouraging.

Most of the members of the Cabinet were at the Executive Mansion at an early hour, and the fact that they did not leave after the appearance of the morning bulletin was one of many indications that both they and the surgeons felt the gravest apprehensions. The bulletin was of a meagre and rather unsatisfactory character, but it clearly indicated a change for the worse, and all the information obtainable unofficially from the surgeons was fully in correspondence with it.

Soon after the morning examination, however, the patient rallied slightly, the range of his pulse became lower, a faint improvement was apparent in its tone, and before noon the urgent alarm of the early morning began to subside. About noon most of the Cabinet officers left the Executive Mansion feeling assured that even at the worst death was not imminent. The President's condition at noon, as described by several of the attending surgeons, was substantially as follows:

In the first place exhaustion had become a very threatening and dangerous feature of the case. The stomach, enfeebled by the poisoned condition of the blood, seemed unable properly and completely to assimilate the food given it, and the result was a steady and unmistakable failure of all the vital powers indicated by a higher, feebler and more fluctuating pulse; a less satisfactory condition of the wound, and until to-day a considerable degree of mental disturbance. The condition of the swollen parotid gland had not changed in any respect for the better. There has been a slight discharge of pus both from the incision, made several days ago, and not sufficient to relieve the inflammation or diminish the swelling. The gland continued, therefore, to exert a depressing and dangerous influence upon the patient's already weakened vitality, and there was no prospect of any immediate change for the better in its character. The process of repair along the track of the ball had ceased, and the granulations were becoming noticeably less perfect. The pus discharge by the wound was also unnatural in appearance and consistence.

All these unfavorable symptoms were due directly or indirectly to the vitiated condition of the blood. In the opinion of the surgeons, the danger of death from exhaustion might be averted were it not for the condition of the gland, but it seemed very doubtful whether the process of repair could begin or go on in the presence of that complication. Such, in brief, were the unfavorable features of the President's case at noon. The only favorable symptoms were the continued ability of the stomach to take and retain food, and the clearer and more perfect action of the brain. Soon after noon the President's attendants reported a slight improvement in his condition, and at 2 o'clock Colonel Rockwell sent the following telegram to the Hon. W. H. Robertson, New-York:

At this hour, 2 o'clock, the President is quite comfortable. His pulse is 114. He voluntarily remarked that he felt stronger than on yesterday. Whatever the future may bring he has not yet given any signs of dissolution. He said years ago that it was always the unexpected that was happening with him.

Later in the afternoon, the surgeons admitted that some of the President's symptoms were more encouraging. His pulse began to show greater steadiness and slightly improved quality, and his mental faculties were clearer and more active than at any time during the past week. Both of these symptoms were taken as indications of improved nutrition. The President himself voluntarily said several times in the course of the afternoon "to his attendants" that he thought he felt better than he did yesterday, and remarked that for the first time in several days he found himself able to taste the food which he swallowed. The 6:30 official bulletin showed a slight amelioration of the patient's symptoms, and although the change was too trifling to justify any great amount of encouragement it was eagerly accepted by those who could not bring themselves to believe that the President would die, as ground for renewed hope.

Dr. Bliss, in conversation with the Rev. Dr. Powers, pastor of President Garfield's church said at 7 o'clock that the President had had thus far a rather better day than was anticipated this morning. He did not think there was enough change, however, as yet to justify any anticipations of recovery or to modify the views entertained by himself and the other surgeons as to the extreme gravity of the crisis.

"If," he said, "the President gets through to-morrow as well as he has to-day, I think there will be some ground for encouragement."

About 9 o'clock this evening the President said to Mrs. Garfield, who was sitting by his bedside, that he would like a piece of milk toast. She replied that if the surgeons had no objections she would get it for him. Dr. Bliss, upon being consulted, said that it would do no harm if the condition of the President's parotid gland would allow him to move his jaws to eat it. Mrs. Garfield thereupon prepared the toast carefully herself, and the patient ate with apparent relish and enjoyment a piece about half as large as a man's hand, moving his jaws with less difficulty than was anticipated. This taking of solid food for the first time in about two weeks is regarded by the President's attendants as a favorable indication, and has strengthened a little more the hope expressed this afternoon by Colonel Cockwell and General Swain.

TALKS WITH DOCTORS AND ATTENDANTS.
DR. BLISS WITHOUT HOPE AT NOON BUT MORE ENCOURAGED IN THE EVENING—GENERAL SWAIN AND COLONEL ROCKWELL REFUSE TO ABANDON HOPE.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—In a conversation with a correspondent at noon Dr. Bliss replied to questions substantially as follows:

"What view do you take, Doctor, of the President's condition to-day?"

"I think he is no better to-day than yesterday; and when I say he is no better it is about equivalent to saying that he is worse, because he is longer in coming to this way without positive repair the less becomes his chances of recovery."

"Has he failed much this forenoon?"

"Not a great deal since 7 o'clock. His time of greatest depression is early in the morning. It was so yesterday morning and was so again this morning. After that he rallied a little and his pulse fluctuated during the forenoon between 110 and 118."

"Does he realize his condition?"

"I think he does to a certain extent. He has inquired about his pulse and about the condition of the inflamed gland several times to-day."

"You do not think he has given up the hope of his own recovery?"

"No, I don't think he has. He seemed more discouraged about himself this morning than usual, and I think his discouragement had something to do with his physical depression. His mind seemed for a time to react unfavorably upon his body."

"Did he ask you how he was?"

"Yes, and Mrs. Garfield and I gave him reassuring replies. That seemed to brace him up and he soon afterward rallied."

"What is the condition of his mind to-day?"

"His mind is absolutely clear."

"Better, then, than yesterday?"

"Much better. He understands everything that is said to him to-day and is conscious of what goes on about him."

"What is the appearance of the parotid gland to-day?"

"It has not changed much."

"Does it continue to discharge?"

"Yes, it discharges rather more freely, I think, through the ear."

"Are any of the other glands of the body affected?"

"No."

"And there is no suppuration except in the wound and the gland?"

"Nowhere else."

"How does the wound look?"

"Not quite so well as heretofore. The granulations were not so perfect this morning as they have hitherto been."

"Has the character of the pus from the wound changed?"

"Not materially. It perhaps indicates a little more depletion of the system."

"Has the slim chance of which you spoke yesterday, Doctor, grown any narrower since then?"

"Yes, I think it has. He has less chance to-day to recover than he had yesterday."

"You still hope for recovery?"

"Yes, I hope for it."

"But what is your judgment—your belief with regard to it?"

"My belief is that the President cannot recover. If it were not for the local trouble—I mean the condition of the parotid gland—he might gain strength and make progress, but I do not see how the process of repair can begin or go on in the presence of that complication."

"If there should be no improvement how long would the patient probably hold out?"

"I should think he might live two or three days. I do not think death will occur suddenly."

"You say his mind to-day is absolutely clear; is it not probable that his mental faculties will fail before the end comes?"

"Yes, I presume death will be preceded by a period of unconsciousness."

"Have you advised Mrs. Garfield to send for any other members of the family?"

"No, I do not think it is our place to make that suggestion. Mrs. Garfield knows perfectly well how the President is."

"Has any one been admitted to the room to see him yesterday or to-day except the surgeons and the usual attendants?"

"No one to my knowledge."

"If death occurs will its approach be recognizable for any considerable time in advance?"

"I think it will. It is impossible to predict with certainty what course the case will take, but I think it likely that, if worst comes to worst, the President will sink gradually, and that we shall have some hours' warning of the coming of the end."

At 4 o'clock this afternoon Dr. Bliss made the following replies to questions asked him:

"What is the condition of the President this afternoon?"

"He has had a more comfortable day than was anticipated this morning. His mental condition is perfect; he takes his food well; he is resting quietly, and his pulse is now about 114."

"Do you think there is any more reason for encouragement?"

"The facts I have just given you are some reasons for encouragement."

General Swain, at 10:40 o'clock this morning, said to a correspondent that the President's pulse had varied a good deal since the morning dressing. The least exertion or any slight movement of the body was enough to increase its frequency, so that, although its average rate might not change a great deal, it was occasionally higher for short periods. The swollen parotid gland, he said, continues to discharge through the ear and through the incision made several days ago, and this discharge seems to afford relief. The surgeons still hope that the nourishment the patient takes will sustain his strength and keep him in the present plane of vitality until the glandular abscess becomes less threatening, when there will be, in General Swain's opinion, a chance at least of recuperation.

General Swain came from the President's room this afternoon, and said, in conversation with a friend, that the President seemed to him better to-day than yesterday. He appeared stronger, and said himself that he felt stronger, and that for the first time in several days he could taste the food which he swallowed.

Colonel Rockwell this afternoon said, with much emphasis and feeling: "Notwithstanding all that has been said, notwithstanding the dispatches which have been sent far and wide over the country, I tell you the President is not dying and shows no signs of dying. I don't speculate as to the chances of the future. The present is enough for me. He is not dying now. Not ten minutes since I heard him say to General Swain, who stood by his bedside, that he thought he felt better than he did yesterday. A long while ago, in talking to me about himself, General Garfield said: 'With me it is always the unexpected which happens.' I believe the unexpected may happen once more in the President's life, and that he may yet surprise the country by getting well."

OFFICIAL BULLETINS.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Aug. 27.—8:30 a. m.—The President slept from half an hour to an hour or more at a time throughout the night. He